

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 SAB-01 IGA-02 AID-20 EB-11

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00

DRC-01 /146 W

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R 262043Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1609

INFO GOV PANCANAL

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PN, PQ, CU, EAID, PFOR

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR LISTING OF LEGAL CONSEQUENCES OF GOP
RECOGNITION OF CUBAN REGIME

1. WITH THE RECENT RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN CUBA AND PANAMA, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT TO IDENTIFY CLEARLY THE POTENTIAL LEGAL CONSEQUENCES RESULTING FROM THIS POLICY DECISION AS THEY AFFECT ONGOING AID, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, TRADE AND COMMERCIAL PROGRAMS AND U.S.-PANAMANIAN RELATIONS IN GENERAL. THE ROLE OF CANAL AS INTERNATIONAL WATERWAY COMPLICATES MATTER. FOR EXAMPLE, WE UNDERSTAND PRACTICE HAS BEEN TO DENY BUNKERING FACILITIES TO CUBAN SHIPS(FOUR CUBAN SHIPS WERE DENIED SERVICES IN JUNE 1974). WE ANTICIPATE GREATER NUMBER OF VISITS BY CUBAN VESSELS IN FUTURE AND ULTIMATELY CAN EXPECT PANAMANIAN PROTESTS OVER USG REFUSALS TO PROVIDE REFUELING AND OTHER SERVICES.

2. MAJOR REPAIR WORK IS PRESENTLY UNDER WAY AT TOCUMEN AIRPORT, BUT WE UNDERSTAND RAPID DETERIORATION
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OF RUNWAYS AS RESULT OF HEAVY RAINS MAY NECESSITATE

CLOSING OF TOCUMEN BEFORE WORK IS COMPLETED.
ACCORDINGLY, WE MAY RECEIVE A REQUEST FOR USE OF HOWARD AFB
BY COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC. WHAT LEGAL COMPLICATIONS WOULD
ENSURE WITH THE USE OF HOWARD BY CUBAN AIRLINES OR BY
OTHER CARRIERS FLYING TO AND FROM CUBA?

3. AS IT IS INEVITABLE THAT PROBLEMS WILL COME UP,
EMBASSY REQUESTS COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW AND LISTING OF ALL
LEGAL RESTRICTIONS WHICH PANAMA'S RESUMPTION OF
TRADE RELATIONS WITH CUBA WILL BRING INTO PLAY AND
WHICH COULD AFFECT OUR RELATIONS WITH THE GOP. FOR
MAXIMUM UTILITY THE MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING
SUCH INFORMATION IN NEAR FUTURE.
JORDEN

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Message Attributes

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